



**FREE RAIN BARREL PROGRAM
RESIDENT APPLICATION FORM**

The Village of Wheeling is pleased to partner with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) to provide free rain barrels, connecting hardware, and delivery for qualified Wheeling residents. Installation is not included. Effective December 31, 2016, the program will be discontinued.

Please complete, and sign, the information below. Once the Village receives this form, the order will be processed and rain barrels will be delivered by MWRD's vendor. Deliveries can take 6-10 weeks.

If you have any questions regarding the Rain Barrel Program, please contact the Department of Public Works at (847) 279-6900.

To receive free rain barrels, residents must confirm all of the following:

_____ I agree to connect my rain barrel(s) to my home's downspout(s). *Information attached.* Please note: barrels shall only be placed in the rear yard of your residence.

_____ I agree to properly maintain my rain barrel(s). *Information attached.*

_____ I agree to allow MWRD's vendor onto my property to deliver my rain barrel(s).

Name (Please Print) _____

Home Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Number of Rain Barrels Requesting (limit of four): _____

Rain Barrel Color (Indicate #): _____ Terra Cotta _____ Blue _____ Black _____ Gray

Note: All rain barrels no longer in use must be returned to the Village. If you decide to remove your rain barrel(s), please contact Christine in Public Works at (847) 279-6900.

I, _____ (*resident name*), agree to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the Village of Wheeling, its officers, agents, employees and elected officials, from and against any and all claims, including but not limited to personal injuries relating to the use of the rain barrels. The Village of Wheeling does not sell, install or maintain the rain barrels. Any downspout repairs/reconnection costs incurred by the homeowner, should the use of the rain barrel(s) be discontinued, is the responsibility of the homeowner.

I, _____ (*resident name*), give the Village and/or MWRD permission to conduct an annual inspection of the installed rain barrel(s) as needed for compliance of the Village's agreement with MWRD.

Signature _____ Date _____

***Please mail or deliver applications to Village of Wheeling, Dept. of Public Works,
77 W. Hintz Road, Wheeling IL 60090***

Installation Instructions

Please read these instructions and warnings thoroughly before beginning installation and retain for future reference.

INCLUDED

- Rain barrel body (A)
- Rain barrel lid (B)
- Mesh filter (preinstalled in lid) (C)
- 1 overflow hose and 1 hose clamp (D)
- 1 spout, 1 rubber gasket, 1 nut (E)
- 4 screws

NEEDED

- Slothead and Phillips (crosshead) screwdrivers
- Wrench
- Tape measure and marker
- Safety glasses, safety gloves
- Hacksaw
- Hammer or chisel

Step 1 Locate

Choose a location below a downspout for your rain barrel. The location must have level, firm ground. A 3'x3' paving stone can be used to provide stability. Avoid locations near ground-level basement windows or window wells.

Step 2 Assemble

Put the rubber gasket on the spout and place it through the hole at the front of the barrel. Thread the nut onto the back of the spout from inside the barrel. Hold the nut in place with a wrench and hand tighten only. It only needs to be tight enough to prevent water leakage. Use caution as over-tightening can crack the barrel.

Step 3 Cut Downspout

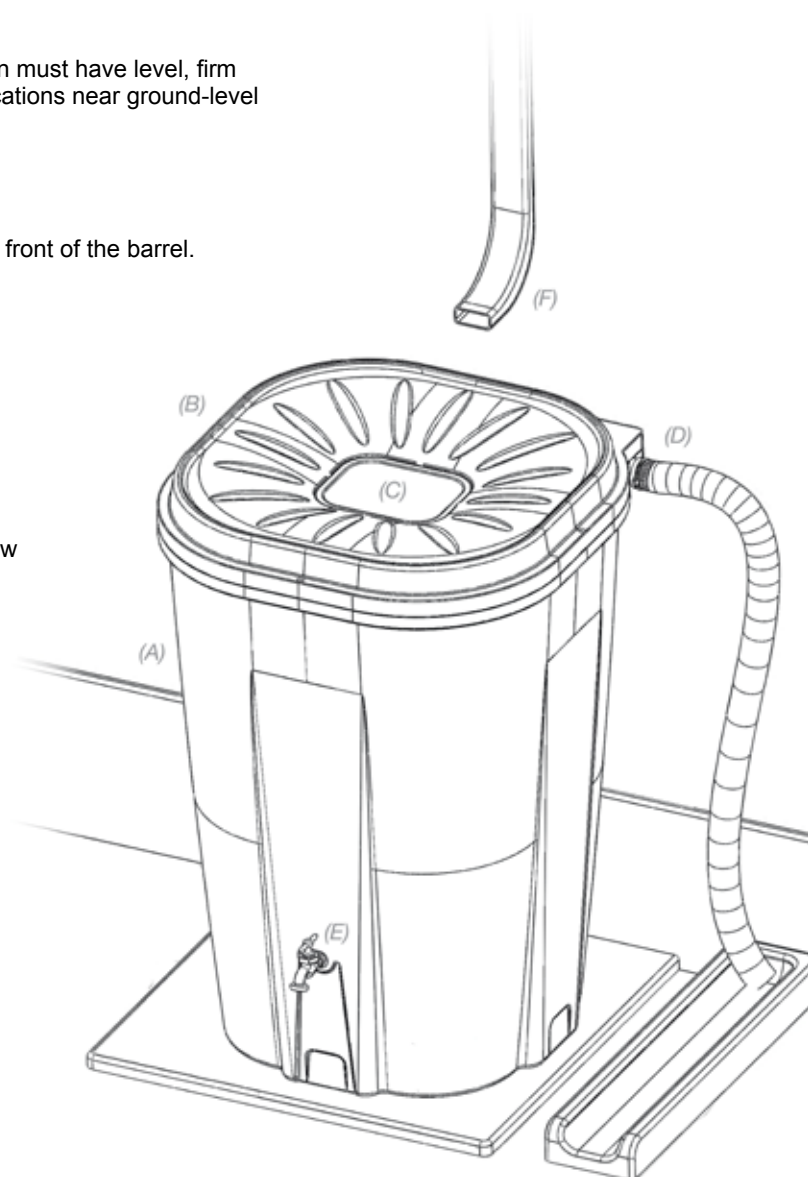
Place the barrel beside the downspout to measure and mark your required cut. Make sure to allow enough room for the barrel, lid and elbow spout. **Wearing safety glasses and gloves**, cut the downspout using a hacksaw. Attach your existing elbow spout (F) to the new downspout end.

Step 4 Overflow

Choose which side overflow spout you will use. Both spouts are blocked by a plastic disc by default. Remove the disc by inserting a slot screwdriver or chisel into the overflow tube from the outside, and gently tap with a hammer around the edges of the disc until it pops free. Attach the overflow hose using the hose clamp and a slot screwdriver. Direct the other end of the hose to wherever your downspout originally drained, which should be either a splash pad or sewer drain.

Step 5 Attach Lid & Place

Place the lid on the barrel and affix using the four provided screws (#6 x 1.5") and a crosshead screwdriver. Hand-tighten only. Over-tightening may crack the plastic. Place assembled bin under downspout and ensure it is level and stable.



Option Connecting Multiple Barrels

Multiple FreeGarden™ RAIN barrels can be connected to collect additional water from the same downspout. On each additional barrel tap out BOTH plastic discs in the overflow spouts as in Step 4 above, then connect and clamp the end of the first barrel's overflow hose to one of the spouts of the additional barrel. Clamp and connect another overflow hose to the other spout of the additional barrel and direct the open end to wherever your downspout originally drained (usually a splash pad or sewer drain).

Usage

Congratulations! You can use your collected rainwater for many purposes, such as:

- Watering lawns
- Watering gardens
- Washing cars
- Cleaning outdoor furniture
- Washing garden tools and containers
- Watering indoor and outdoor potted plants

Note: NEVER DRINK OR INGEST STANDING WATER. Do not allow ingestion by pets and animals, and do not cook or wash anything in collected rainwater in any way that may result in ingestion. Ingestion may cause serious illness or death. See below for further important warnings.

Maintenance

SUMMER

Clean the screen once a month to prevent clogging. Check for erosion under/around rain barrel; platform/support must remain level and stable at all times.

WINTER

Drain barrel and store in shed or garage. If left outside with freezing water inside, the barrel may crack.



WARNINGS

Drowning Hazard

Never permit children to play on, in, or near a rain barrel. Always affix the lid securely to avoid drowning. Never use a rain barrel without the lid securely affixed, or with a damaged, cracked, warped or broken cover. Never place a rain barrel near a deck, stairs, chair, or other structures or items that may allow a child to climb above, on, or in the rain barrel.

Water Contamination Hazard

Do not use collected water for drinking, cooking, washing or in any way that may result in ingestion of the water by humans and/or animals. Water in rain barrels may become stagnant and/or contaminated. Ingesting rain barrel water may cause serious illness or death. Use only for watering plants and cleaning of outdoor items not related to eating or drinking.

Tipping Hazard

A misinstalled rain barrel may tip over causing bodily injury or property damage. Never place rain barrels on non-level or uneven surfaces. Always use a solid, stable platform under the rain barrel. Water is very heavy. The preparation and placement of the installation are critical; the platform must be level and provide robust support for a filled rain barrel.

Electrical Hazard

If the downspout contains heating cables, there is a potential electrocution or fire hazard during installation. Ensure power is disconnected at the electrical panel before manipulating heated downspouts. Consult a qualified electrician for modifications to heated downspouts.

Installation Hazards

Rain barrels are for water collection and outdoor use only. No other uses are recommended. Downspout edges may be sharp. Wear protective gloves when cutting and handling downspouts. Always wear safety glasses when cutting or drilling to prevent eye injuries. Protect siding from damage by inserting a sheet of plywood between the downspout and siding. Read all instructions and warnings thoroughly before installing this product.

Warning and Limitations

Improper installation and maintenance may result in property damage, bodily injury and/or death. Enviro World Corporation is not responsible for any damages or injuries caused by or resulting from improper installation and/or continued maintenance. Retain this sheet for future reference.

International Headquarters

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Maintaining and Using Your Rain Barrel

You can use rain barrel water to wash your car, water your lawn, or clean work boots and tools. Rain barrel water is naturally free of chlorine, lime, and calcium, and some gardeners swear their plants prefer it.

Rain barrel water is runoff from your roof, so do not drink it or use it for bathing! Disconnect your rain barrel if you need to use a moss killer on your roof. Wait for a few rainy days before reconnecting your rain barrel to allow the moss killer to rinse away. Do not use rain barrel water on plants if your home has a copper roof or gutters.

Oh No, Overflow!

Don't worry, your rain barrel is meant to overflow once it is full. Overflow water will spill from the opening on the top and the overflow fitting. Connect a hose to the overflow fitting to direct the water away from your house. You can also connect a second rain barrel to the first one using the included connecting hose and double the amount of water captured before it overflows.

Check on your rain barrel when it is raining to make sure the overflow is not causing flooding or flowing into your neighbor's property. If your rain barrel is properly installed on a pervious surface, overflow water should be absorbed into the ground. If you see water pooling on your property, consider installing a rain garden, which is a type of landscaping designed to absorb water.

Regular Maintenance

Regularly check your gutters, downspouts, rain barrel water intake screen, rain barrel mosquito screen and rain barrel spigot for leaks, obstructions or debris. Also, confirm that the lid is secure so children and animals cannot fall into the rain barrel.

Winterizing

Drain your rain barrel before temperatures drop below freezing and keep the spigot open in the winter so water does not accumulate and freeze.

You can also turn it upside down or bring it inside to ensure no water accumulates in the barrel.

Preventing Mosquitoes

Your rain barrel comes with a mosquito-proof screen under the lid. When the mosquito netting is intact, and there are no leaks where mosquitoes can enter the barrel, your rain barrel should be mosquito-free.

Remove accumulated water from the top of the barrel every 3-4 days during the rainy season. Mosquitoes need at least 4 days of standing water to develop larvae.

If you believe mosquitoes may be breeding in your rain barrel, empty it completely and let it dry out to kill all mosquitoes.

If you want to customize the appearance of your rain barrel, you can

Paint Your Rain Barrel

Follow these steps to paint your rain barrel:

1. Wash it thoroughly with soapy water to remove any dust or dirt.
2. Once the barrel is dry, apply a plastic primer designed to adhere to polyethylene plastic. Follow the instructions for the primer, including safety precautions.

Note: Don't skip this step. Primer is important! Paint will not stick to a rain barrel without primer, and house paint primers will not adhere well to rain barrel plastic.

3. Gently buff the primer surface with fine sandpaper to remove any glossy areas.
4. Paint the barrel with artist's acrylic paint. Acrylic paint is durable and won't chip or crack as easily as other paints.
5. Allow several days for the paint to dry completely and apply a clear spray sealant to protect your artwork. Follow the instructions for the spray sealant, including safety precautions. This will protect your work of art from the elements.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

mwrdr.org

Disclaimer: With proper installation, maintenance and use, your rain barrel should function properly. The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago assumes no liability for the installation, maintenance or use of your rain barrel. We are not responsible for any rain barrel malfunction; property damage or injury associated with your rain barrel malfunction; property damage or injury associated with your rain barrel, its accessories or contents.

See also additional instructions and warnings regarding installation and maintenance of rain barrels contained in the FreeGarden RAIN® Installation Instructions.